

**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries**

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**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries  
Public Meeting Minutes  
Sacramento, California  
May 30, 2007**

A public meeting of The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) was held May 30, 2007 at the Greg Gorges Conference Room at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Howe Avenue Complex in Sacramento. Due notice had been sent to all known interested parties.

**1. Call to order/Member roll call**

Chairperson Shanda Wallace called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM and welcomed everyone. A quorum was established with the following members present:

Rochelle Bache, RDAEF  
William Baker  
Judith Forsythe, RDA  
Linda Gipson, RDH  
Shanda Wallace, RDH

**2. Closed Session – Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a): Annual Review of Executive Officer**

The committee went into closed session at 11:03 a.m.

**3. Return to open session**

The Committee returned to open session at 11:25 PM and Chairperson Wallace announced that the annual review of the executive officer would take place at the next meeting to be held in August.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Bache seconded approval of the April 18, 2007 open session minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Chairperson's Report**

Ms. Wallace noted that there was ongoing and continued communication with the Dental Board (DBC) in an effort to strengthen the relationship between COMDA and the DBC. She also thanked the COMDA staff for their hard work during such a busy examination season. She announced that interviews are ongoing to fill the vacant positions at COMDA and thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during this time of transition.

## **6. Executive Officer's Report**

Ms. Ware announced that an offer was made to Tremel Martin to fill the receptionist position and Ms. Martin has accepted. This offer was contingent on approval from the Department's Office of Human Resources. An offer was also made for a seasonal clerk position and interviews were taking place for the exam coordinator position.

Ms. Ware said she would be attending the first half of the CDHA meeting in Costa Mesa on June 8 and 9. A written statement affirming the commitment of COMDA and the DBC to meet for a "Blue Sky" DISCUSSION was distributed, confirming plans to hold the meeting in August provided COMDA schedules its August meeting in conjunction with the DBC meeting. Ms. Ware also distributed a summary of the book "Boards That Make a Difference: A New Design for Leadership in Nonprofit and Public Organizations" by John Carver. She and Mr. Baker recommended the book for all members.

## **7. RDA Program**

Ms. Wallace called attention to the RDA Examination Results and the RDA Examination Income and Expenses before moving on to the update on the transition to the new vendor for the computer based testing. Ms. Ware indicated the transition up to that point had been fairly smooth and the main issue was the overwhelming number of phone calls received from applicants who wanted to take the RDA written exam, but were required to wait until the new testing company's process was established and contact information had been mailed by the vendor to all qualified applicants. The committee members asked to receive a copy of the handbook being provided to qualified applicants by the new testing company, PSI.

A motion to defer the approval or denial of the following RDA program until a site visit could be conducted was moved by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Bache, and carried unanimously:

### RDA Program

- American Career College, Anaheim

Ms. Kiley provided background information on the situation at Western Career College, Sacramento and explained that anonymous student complaints received by COMDA prompted the site visits that documented program deficiencies. The fact that the deficiencies included infection control issues and were not promptly corrected resulted in the staff recommendation that COMDA recommend withdrawal of DBC approval of the program. Greg Nathanson, President of Western Career College and Holly Beernink, Western Career Colleges' Chief Academic Officer and Accreditation Liaison addressed the Committee. Discussion ensued. Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Bache seconded a motion to recommend withdrawal of approval from the Western Career College, Sacramento RDA program. The motion carried unanimously

Recommendation for approval of the following courses was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Ms. Forsythe and carried unanimously:

Pit and Fissure Sealant Course

- Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga
- Palomar College, San Marcos
- Santa Clarita School of Dental Assisting

Recommendation for approval of the following course was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Ms. Forsythe and carried unanimously:

Radiation Safety Course

- California Dental Certifications, Pacific Beach

American Dental Careers, Antioch was removed from consideration in the Radiation Safety Course category until a site visit could be conducted.

The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

## **8. EF Program**

Extended Functions (EF) examination results and a report on EF examination income & expenses were reviewed.

## **9. RDH Program**

RDH Licensure by Credential (LBC) Program Statistics was reviewed, as were RDH licensing and examination statistics.

The committee reviewed a letter from Terri Poulos RDH, Acting Director of the Dental Hygiene Program at Southwestern College, requesting that COMDA propose regulations that would create an approval process for Board approved courses in the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, administration of local anesthetic agents, and periodontal soft tissue curettage. Discussion ensued. Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Forsythe seconded directing COMDA staff to develop draft regulatory language. The motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Legislation**

The committee took no position on SB534 (Perata) that would create a Dental Hygiene Board.

Ms. Ware told the Committee of her concerns regarding the staff's ability to absorb workload related to implementation of AB269 (Eng) should it be enacted into law. This bill would require data collection and reporting associated with licensee renewals and funding of a full or half time staff position would be needed. Mr. Baker moved and Ms.

Bache seconded taking a position of “support if amended” to address the funding and staff needs associated with implementation. The motion carried unanimously.

A summary of AB 1025 (Bass): License Denial, Revocation or Suspension with supporting and opposing comments was reviewed by the committee. Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Forsythe seconded a motion to oppose AB 1025. It carried unanimously.

Ms. Wallace directed attention to the update report on the proposed clean-up legislation relating to implementation of SB 1541 and related bills. As there were no questions she turned to a request from the Dental Assisting Alliance for clean up language that would broaden the definition of who may provide the core course for dental assistants [§ 1752.2 (b)]. A motion to support amendment of Section 1750.2 (b) to add post secondary institutions was moved by Ms. Bache, seconded by Ms. Forsythe, and carried unanimously.

The Dental Assisting Alliance requested language to set unprofessional conduct provisions for dentists providing specialty instruction and to retain in statute a practical examination requirement for specialty licensure. Discussion ensued.

The committee reviewed a summary on SB 963 (Ridley-Thomas): Continuity of Board Operations for informational purposes. Discussion ensued.

## **11. Regulations**

The committee reviewed an update report on proposed regulations to implement SB 1546, SB 1541 and related bills re dental assisting scopes of practice, new programs and courses, noting that the DBC would be discussing the proposed regulations at their upcoming meeting.

They also reviewed a report on proposed revisions to Section 1079.2 of the regulations dealing with the clinical practice requirement for licensure of Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice. A regulatory hearing was held on May 15, 2007 and Ms. Ware reported testifying in support of the proposal. Discussion ensued.

## **12. Information Only**

Cathy Mudge, representing CDA, addressed the committee regarding teaching methodology training. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Wallace requested information on the RDH scope of practice relating to teeth whitening. Counsel indicated that recent events have made it necessary for the Legal Office to remind members to avoid commenting upon or providing advice regarding scope of practice issues. Individuals with questions should be directed to the law, table of permitted duties on COMDA’s web site, and advised to seek advice from their own legal counsel if they are uncertain regarding how to interpret or apply provisions in the law. It was agreed that COMDA could gather information on this issue at a future meeting in an effort to determine if policy recommendations should be made to the DBC.

### **13. Future agenda items and issues of interest**

The following agenda items were identified:

- Possible regulations to address approval of RDH courses in anesthesia, nitrous oxide and soft tissue curettage.
- Possible position on SB 534 Dental Hygiene Board
- Information gathering on scope of practice issues related to teeth whitening procedures.

### **14. Additional public comments**

There were no additional public comments.

### **15. Adjournment**

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, August 22, 2007 in San Francisco. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Prepared by Nichole Johnston

Submitted to the Committee for approval at its August 22, 2007 meeting.

APPROVED:

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Shanda Wallace, RDH

Chairperson, Committee on Dental Auxiliaries